

News Briefs

Case lot sale

The commissary and base exchange will sponsor a case lot sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Pillsbury Dough Boy and General Mills Honey Bee will make an appearance, and commissary patrons will have the chance to register for prizes. Call Ext. 7109.

Speed dial saves lives

BLAZE TEAM members can reach 14th Flying Training Wing emergency responders by dialing 9-1-1 from any base phone, including those in military family housing. However, 9-1-1 calls from cellular phones will connect to off-base operators. To access wing emergency services from a cell phone, dial 434-8881 or 434-8882. People are encouraged to program this number into their cell phones for ready access.

Chief promotion testing

Effective September, all senior master sergeants competing for promotion to chief master sergeant will take the U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination during the second week of September. The 05E9 cycle testing window will be Sept. 13 through Sept. 16.

Chapel yard sale

The base chapel sponsors a yard sale at 7 a.m. Saturday. Donations for the sale may be dropped off at the chapel front office. The funds collected will benefit the new chapel kitchen and annex. For more information, call Senior Airman Manuel Avendano at Ext. 2500.

Inside



SPORTS 19

Air Force wrestlers take two medals at national competition.

Columbus AFB Training Timeline											
Phase II				Phase III				Wing Sortie Board			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (06-03)	3.93 days	0.33 days	June 3	48th (05-09)	4.21 days	2.88 days	May 20	T-37	288	322	17,350
41st (06-02)	0.86 days	2.0 days	May 17	50th (05-09)	-2.03 days	0.63 days	May 20	T-38C	171	221	8,992
								T-1A	158	164	7,995
Graduation speaker: Col. Charles McGuirk, 505th Command and Control Wing commander, Hurlburt Field, Fla.											

Airman convicted of defrauding government

**VANCE AFB, Okla.** — An Airman at Vance AFB, Okla., was convicted recently in a special court-martial for defrauding the U.S. government.

Staff Sgt. Louise Smith, 71st Medical Support Squadron, was found guilty of violating the Uniform Code of Military Justice's Article 132, Fraud Against the United States.

The military judge sentenced Sergeant Smith to a bad conduct discharge, three months confinement, forfeiture of \$823 in pay during three months and reduction to airman basic.

The fraud occurred during a local do-it-yourself move, said case prosecutor Capt. Charles Gartland, 71st Flying Training Wing legal office.

Sergeant Smith's husband drove a 10,000-pound forklift onto the scale when weighing the family's household goods. As a result, the claim she submitted to the traffic management office the next day requested reimbursement for moving more than 21,000 pounds of household goods.

This caused the traffic management office and 71st Comptroller Squadron officials to question the extraordinarily high weight claimed.

An investigation ensued, and Sergeant Smith confessed to fraudulently boosting the weight of her family's household goods. The fraudulent claim netted her about \$3,000 more than she was entitled to.

"This case is a perfect illustration of the ultimate test of personal integrity: Doing the right thing when no one else is looking," Captain Gartland said.

"She wasn't just wrong about thinking she'd get away with it. From an ethical standpoint, she revealed a character flaw that is fatal to military morale, discipline and mission accomplishment," he said. "Hopefully, (her) punishment will cause other military members to think hard about their decisions. The military may be in her past once she gets out of jail, but her federal conviction will haunt her forever." *(Courtesy of Air Education and Training News Service)*

NURSES

(Continued from Page 1)

Professional nursing care is indispensable to providing quality care to sick patients. Today's military nurses are among the nations highest educated, trained and respected professionals. Drawn by adventure, leadership and education, six officers stationed at the Columbus Clinic offered you their views of military nursing.

Lt. Col. Mark Holland is the 14th Medical Operations Squadron commander, 14th Medical Group deputy commander and chief nurse executive. He is a registered nurse anesthetist and said he "was drawn to nursing, specifically nurse anesthesia from a personal experience as a patient while in high school." After completing his anesthesia training, he joined the reserves as a flight nurse. He entered active duty in 1988 since he was "having more fun in the reserves than [in his] civilian job."

Maj. Beverly Sabourin is the clinical medicine flight commander and chief of health care integration. She said she "can't remember a time when [she] didn't want to be a nurse." Wanting to

"do her time" for her country, she looked into joining the Peace Corps or military during her senior year in college. She decided on the Air Force and hasn't looked back. "I joined for my country and stayed for my country," she said.

Maj. Edith Yasso is a health care integrator and has been a nurse since 1985. She was drawn to nursing because of its blend of science and human arts. In 1990 she was lured to the military because of the chance to work in a variety of care settings. "Military nursing is different," she said. "You get the opportunity to lead and have responsibility early in your career. As a civilian nurse, it takes a long time to get the same leadership opportunities."

Capt. Ofelia Tennyson is the primary care element chief and not only leads Air Education and Training Command's award winning clinic, but also takes on the duties of a primary care team nurse. She was inspired to become a nurse because of the care her father received from nurses. "I was impressed by their work," she said. Also an admirer of servicemembers, she joined the military in 1998 because, "I'm

able to serve my country and work as a nurse!"

Capt. William Tennyson is the nurse manager of the flight medicine clinic. As an enlisted member in the guard, he secured a Veteran's Administration Health Professions Scholarship to obtain his degree as a nurse. He caught his enthusiasm for nursing from his sister, whom he said "always told me how much she loved it!" He joined the active duty force in 1999.

Capt. J. Todd Williams is a primary care team nurse for family practice. He realized that he wanted to enter the health care profession during high school. He became a licensed practical nurse in 1984. The Air Force welcomed him in 1986 as a medic because he "liked helping people in ways most people can't handle." He continued his education, and received his commission in 1997 as a registered nurse.

Despite six very distinctly different paths to the nursing profession and military careers, all these Airmen comprise one nursing team at Columbus AFB. These nurses stand ready to help patients with all of their health care needs. *(Courtesy of the 14th MDG)*

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Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 26 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the troops and their families while they are away.



 STAR BLAZER



Cadet Jennifer Peltz

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates Cadet Peltz on her distinction as **Air Education and Training Command Youth of the Year**. Cadet Peltz qualified as a National Merit Finalist this fall, is a senior patrol leader in Girl Scouts, a school coordinator for Habitat for Humanity and raised more than \$300 dollars for the International American Red Cross.



# Local AFSA chapter hosts annual convention

The Golden Triangle Chapter of the Air Force Sergeants Association hosted the annual convention for Division 610 April 21 through April 23.

Delegates from chapters in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi met at the Holiday Inn in downtown Columbus to conduct the organization's annual business.

Master Sgt. Kevin Hawks, 14th Security Forces first sergeant and convention coordinator, remarked at how well the event was received.

"The feedback from the division president, retired Chief Master Sgt. Frank Ruholl, was very positive," he said. "Our chapter is one of the smallest in the division, and the fact that the City of Columbus is fairly small made the task a little more challenging."

Sergeant Hawks said that the men and women of the convention planning committee did a superb job in setting up the event.

"I can't praise these folks enough," he continued. "On top of the pressure of the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection, this team of exceptional professionals put together a fabulous three-day event that received high praise from our AFSA International representatives, retired Chief Master Sgt. John McCauslin and Marie McDowell."

The convention's primary purpose was to report to chapter delegates the status of International Headquarters, discuss legislation affecting Air Force Airmen and their families, elect next years' officers and prepare the division for the International Convention in August.

"I attended my first convention for AFSA last year in San Antonio and was amazed at how much I learned about this organization," Sergeant Hawks said. "Since we have such a small chapter with limited funding, I wanted our local members to have the same opportunity I had without the high cost of hotel fees and traveling expenses the chapter couldn't afford; so I jumped up and volunteered our chapter as hosts for this year's event."

Sergeant Hawks said that if he had known how much work was involved in conjunction with inspector general preparation, he might have done differently.

"These people are amazing," he said. "These folks did a tremendous amount of work and never skipped a beat in ORI prep; all I did was provide them a place to meet. "What this committee did proves that Gen. George Patton Jr. was right when he said 'Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.' I personally feel we put on a first class convention and am proud to serve with the men



Col. Stephen Wilson  
**Members of the Golden Triangle Chapter of the Air Force Sergeants Association hosted the organization's annual convention for Division 610 April 21 through April 23.**

and women of this wing, they prove every day what teamwork is all about."

"Members of the Golden Triangle Chapter displayed the confidence needed to face the challenge of putting this convention together," said Senior Master Sgt. John Wolfe, Golden Triangle Chapter president. "Their enthusiasm and dedication to the task at hand were key ingredients to successfully meeting this challenge. I'm proud to be associated with them." *(Courtesy of the AFSA Golden Triangle Chapter 651)*

## Airmen discouraged from contact lens wear in AOR

**Airman 1st Class Eydie Sakura**  
52nd Fighter Wing

**SPANGDAHLEM AB, Germany** — Blowing sand, smoke and fine dust particles are an eyeball's worst nightmare. Now imagine holding up your unit because you have "something in your eye."

This type of scenario is exactly what optometrists said they fear most when Airmen wear contact lenses instead of their glasses while working in a deployed environment.

People who require medical equipment, like corrective eyewear, must deploy with all required items in their possession, including two pairs of eyeglasses, if needed, and protective mask eyeglass inserts, according to U.S. Central Command guidance issued in January.

This guidance resulted from lessons learned from recent conflicts and joint missions, officials said.

"If the Army, Navy and Marines

can't deploy with contact lenses and must wear their glasses, then the Air Force should follow suit when deploying," said Maj. Robert Kesead, 52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron optometry flight commander. "As of right now, if Airmen want to wear their contacts while they're (deployed), they have to get preapproval from their (deployed) commander."

Contact lenses are time consuming to take care of, and they have become an operational safety issue as well, officials said.

"It was discovered that 90 percent of ocular foreign bodies were preventable just by wearing glasses," said Capt. Jeff Autrey, 52nd AMDS optometry clinical services chief. "Many man hours were lost (because of) troops with nonbattle injuries (from) problems with contact lenses and having 'something in your eye.'"

People deploying must contend with field conditions that may not

allow for proper contact lens hygiene, and poor hygiene leads to an increase in eye abrasions, infections and ulcers, officials said.

"The 'unclean' environment and extended hours of continuous operations lead to people over-wearing the contacts," Captain Autrey said. "Continuous wearing of lenses without removal may cause inflammation, infection and permanent loss of vision."

Such side effects include sensitivity to light, tearing, burning and scratching. To reduce these symptoms, Airmen who normally wear contact lenses can wear their civilian or everyday prescription glasses while deployed, but must also have at least one pair of the brown plastic military-issued glasses.

"We make it mandatory for deploying Airmen to bring their military-issued glasses as well as their everyday glasses," the captain said. "If both pairs of glasses became nonoperational, the brown plastic glasses are the only glasses that can be repaired (while deployed)." *(Courtesy of U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service)*

# AFROTC programs expand across U.S.

Forty-eight new Air Force Junior ROTC units will be ready for cadets at the beginning of the 2005 school year. This is part of a congressionally mandated expansion initiative for all of the service's JROTC programs that began in 1999.

The units will open in high schools from Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

Air Force JROTC was authorized to expand to 945 units by 2005. However, in 2002 expansion plans were put on hold until additional funding was available. The Secretary of the Air Force provided funding support in 2004, and directed the continued growth of the program from its current 746 units to the 945 unit goal which will be reached by the start of the 2007 school year.

"We have started our expansion efforts by opening 48 new units in the fall of 2005," said Col. H.B. McCarraher III, director of Air Force Junior ROTC at Maxwell AFB, Ala. "With over 160 schools on the waiting list, we expect to be able to open another 75 units in 2006 and 76 in 2007 which will bring us to the authorized 945."

"JROTC is excited about the opportunity to expand our program," he said. "This expansion will allow us to open 199 new units across the world and reach an additional 20 to 30,000 students on top of the 104,000 already enrolled in our program."

"To meet our expansion goal, we will need a total of 398 officers and NCOs to teach in the new units," added Jo Alice Talley, chief of Instructor Management. "In addition to the new positions for the upcoming school year, we anticipate another 50-75 positions in existing units that will be vacated through instructor retirement."

"We are looking for Airmen who want to use the skills they learned and the education they received in the Air Force to prepare high school students to take their place as tomorrow's citizens," Colonel McCarraher said. "As instructors, they should exemplify the Air Force's Core Values and set the highest standards of conduct and appearance for themselves and their students."

Retired Airmen interested in becoming JROTC instructors must have retired from active duty within the last five years. Airmen on active duty may apply for positions when they are within six months of their retirement date. In some cases, the five-year requirement may be waived up to ten years based on applicant qualifications and the needs of the program.

Officers must have a bachelor's degree or higher and NCOs must have a high school diploma or equivalent but an associate's degree or better is desirable. As a requirement of the No Child Left Behind Act, a minimum of an associate's degree will be required in the near future.



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez  
**Members of the West Lowndes High School Air Force Junior ROTC perform a flag folding ceremony at the 2005 National Prayer Luncheon.**

Instructors must also meet the Air Force weight and body fat standards and have high standards of military bearing, appearance and moral character. They wear their Air Force uniform and are expected to maintain appearance standards.

New instructors must complete Air University's two-week Aerospace Science Instructor Course at Maxwell AFB prior to receiving certification for instructor duty. The course includes training on instructor performance, standards and accountability as representatives of the Air Force; learning theory; communication skills; teaching methods; lesson planning and student evaluation. Instructors must be recertified every three to five years.

Instructors help plan and support activities such as military balls, cadet competitions, cadet newspaper production, military ceremonies and charitable activities. They also provide instruction in drill and ceremonies and in the principles of leadership and management. The instructors devote themselves to the cadets in the classroom as well as during extensive extracurricular activities.

"There is nothing more rewarding than to watch a student grow and reach their potential ... maturity, leadership, teamwork, academic excellence, citizenship, integrity, char-

acter, physical abilities ... the list goes on," Colonel McCarraher said.

The mission of Air Force Junior ROTC is "Building Better Citizens for America." The Air Force Core Values of Integrity first, Service before self and Excellence in all we do, provide the basis for the program. The curriculum provides cadets with leadership opportunities, life skills education, team-building experiences, character education and academic studies. Air Force JROTC provides its students with the tools for success after high school.

The objectives of the program are to educate and train high school cadets in citizenship, promote community service, instill responsibility, character, and self-discipline and provide instruction in air and space fundamentals. JROTC encourages cadets to demonstrate these values by becoming involved in their communities through community service projects.

"The community gains a better citizen which is the mission of Air Force JROTC," he said.

The local school system has primary responsibility for the units and the instructors work for the school principal. The Air Force provides guidance to ensure that the units are operated according to Air Force standards and also provides uniforms, computers and curriculum materials.

The minimum pay for instructors is equal to the difference between their retirement pay and their active-duty pay and allowances. Some school districts may pay more than the minimum.

Cadets are not subject to any military obligation and Air Force Junior ROTC is not a recruiting program. For cadets who do wish to join the military, there are benefits available. Qualified cadets may apply for an Air Force ROTC scholarship and for a direct appointment to one of the military academies. Students who complete two or three years of AFJROTC may receive up to one-year's credit of Air Force ROTC in college. Students who complete two or three years of JROTC and enlist in the military after high school are entitled to enlist at a higher rank than other enlistees.

"Every officer and NCO who retires honorably from the Air Force is a great candidate to become an Air Force JROTC instructor. If they still desire to wear the uniform and have one of the most rewarding jobs ever, then this is one of those lifetime opportunities they do not want to miss. I challenge each retiree to continue to serve and be part of the team that 'Builds Better Citizens for America'. You won't regret it," Colonel McCarraher said.

For more information about instructor opportunities, call toll free (866) 235-7862, Ext. 35275 or Ext. 35300; or DSN 493-5275 or 493-5300; or visit [www.afots.af.mil/AFJROTC/juniorinstructors/default.htm](http://www.afots.af.mil/AFJROTC/juniorinstructors/default.htm) for complete instructor requirements and application information. *(Courtesy of Air Force Officer Accession Training School)*

14th CPTS intranet site

BLAZE TEAM members can access myPay, the Defense Travel System and other finance links from the 14th Comptroller Squadron intranet site. The site can also be used to request a myPay pin number and read regulatory information regarding travel and military pay. To access the site, click on the 14 FTW button, then the Comptroller button at <https://columbusweb>. Users are also encouraged to complete a customer service survey, also located on the Web site.



# BLAZE TEAM members learn FAST

## America's Airmen: Versatile combat warriors

**Capt. Shannon Smith**  
14th Security Forces  
Squadron



As I look around these days, I see tremendous challenges facing my squadron, the base and the Air Force. The Global War On Terrorism is testing both our resolve and our will to persevere against a determined enemy.

As a security forces officer, I'm particularly interested in protecting airfields and ground convoy operations. Due to manning shortfalls, security forces routinely borrow troops from other Air Force Specialty Codes to augment our ground security forces at home and abroad.

Over the last four years, countless transportation, communications, civil engineering, supply, air traffic control and other troops from across the Air Force found themselves unexpectedly riding in a Humvee with an M-16 rifle protecting convoys and air bases.

They quickly learned that the terrorists have rendered the old term, "In the rear with the gear," obsolete.

These troops performed heroically at every turn, but let's face it — the Air Force is not ground-combat centric

(hence the term Air Force, I suppose). Consequently, our most senior leaders realized Airmen needed more training. Gen. Donald Cook, Air Education and Training Command commander, directed all bases in the command to develop and institute a ground combat skills training course for all deploying Airmen, regardless of AFSC. Columbus AFB's result is FAST: Fundamentals of Air Expeditionary Force Skills Training.

FAST is our base's answer to the general's charge. Let me be blunt. I thought FAST was just that — training done way too fast. Time, money and manpower constraints evolved FAST into an abbreviated two-day course of instruction. The first day consists of 16 hours in the classroom.

Sixteen hours! I have trouble paying attention during my own 45-minute staff meeting. The second day is an all-day series of field exercises in full combat gear that includes convoy protection scenarios, demonstrating enemy fire suppression techniques and defending vital assets on the ground. Let's just say it's two very tough days, both mentally and physically.

Since some of my troops helped devel-

op and administer the course, I talked them in to letting me be one of the "terrorists" for the first FAST class. My team and I, mostly security forces by trade, were licking our chops! There was no way a bunch of Airmen from personnel, services and finance with one day of ground combat classroom training had a chance against us.

The first exercise of the day was a convoy ambush. As I predicted, we "terrorists" obliterated the trainees. As my team and I emerged from the woods to participate in the debrief, I was convinced FAST was doomed to fail.

But to my surprise, the trainees started throwing out some terms from the classroom and correctly surmised what they had done wrong. I was definitely impressed with their ability to recall information and analyze their mistakes, but I didn't think they could actually apply the lessons learned.

During the next scenario, we ambushed the convoy again. This time, results were much different. The trainees returned fire instantly, took cover quickly and displayed veteran-like combat discipline. As a result, yours truly was the first "terrorist" casualty of the day. I got shot by a contracting troop. (I'll never live that one down.) I thought to myself, "Lucky shot. That's all it was."

Unimpressed, my team and I resolved to

re-establish our dominance during the remaining scenarios.

We never did.

I mean, we won, of course. I'm not about to admit anything to the contrary. Otherwise, my squadron will disown me. Our big win notwithstanding, I took something much greater away that afternoon.

Simply stated, I left the exercise genuinely impressed and truly inspired. One battle-tested Army senior NCO guest instructor summed it up in two sentences. He told the trainees, "I came here to help you learn to crawl. Today, you not only crawled, but walked and started to run."

My sentiments exactly.

Our Air Force is incredibly blessed. We have the smartest, most talented and most dedicated people in the world filling our ranks. All you have to do is look around your workplace each day and watch people perform in their primary specialty to see what I'm talking about. That's impressive enough; but I must tell you, when you see Airmen, both officer and enlisted, successfully executing basic ground combat skills after only two days of training, you don't worry so much about the terrorists anymore. They really don't stand a chance.

*(Editor's note: To learn more about Columbus AFB's FAST program, see Page 10.)*

a good idea. Opinions without solutions will cause evaluators to reject your submission. Keep your ideas focused on facts, figures and solutions.

The Air Force IDEA Program Air Force Instruction 38-401 states, "Ideas must include specific recommendations, not merely thoughts or opinions."

Avoid being vague, incomplete or founding your idea on opinion, and you may be able to impact the Air Force's mission.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Runyon of Eielson AFB, Alaska, was awarded \$10,000 for an idea he recently submitted. Sergeant Runyon developed a test that allows for easy detection of fuel leaks with out having to remove the aircraft wing. Prior to the development of this test, it cost more than \$82,000 each time an aircraft had to have the wing removed and reinstalled.

If you have an idea that will positively impact Columbus AFB, Air Education and Training Command or the Air Force, or have questions about the program, call Ext. 2354 or Ext. 2398; or visit the IDEA Web site at <https://ipds.mont.disa.mil>.



## Airman remembers day she lost four friends

**Senior Airman Anna Fitzhorn**  
18th Wing

**KADENA AB, Japan** — In the blink of an eye, lives were lost, children became motherless and fatherless, and others were forever scarred when a drunk driver ended four people's lives and critically injured another in a head-on collision eight years ago.

Four Airmen and another Airman's spouse were returning from a noncommissioned officer academy graduation banquet at Ramstein AB, Germany, on July 11, 1997, where they were supporting a colleague graduating from the course. Just after midnight and only five minutes from home, their vehicle was hit head-on by a drunk driver who had fallen asleep at the wheel in an 18-wheeler.

Tech. Sgt. Terry Jennings, Staff Sgt. Kevin Sullivan and Senior Airman Angela Fralick, all from the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron readiness flight, were killed almost instantly in the crash.

Hiroko Jackson, who had gone along to watch her husband, Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Jackson, graduate, was also killed.

The driver of the truck was found to have far exceeded the legal blood-alcohol level limit and sustained only a broken leg in the crash. The driver received two years in prison for the deaths.

As the only survivor, Master Sgt. Theresa Hall, now first sergeant for the 18th Maintenance Operations Squadron here, said she still remembers the tragic day as if it were yesterday.

"I was sitting in the backseat of the vehicle behind the front passenger. Everyone was asleep except for me and Terry, who was driving," she said. "Terry and I saw the truck headed right for us, and in an instant, it was all over.

"I never lost consciousness during the incident," she

said. "After the crash, I couldn't move, but I knew that everyone else in the car was dead."

Sergeant Hall sustained a broken arm, finger, collarbone, broken femurs as well as several ribs in the accident. She had internal lacerations to her kidney, intestines and spleen, spent more than nine hours in surgery and had to be put on a ventilator.

After more than a month and a half in intensive care, and another two months in the hospital, she was moved to Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. She spent more than a year recuperating with extensive therapy.

"It was very painful," she said. "I had to relearn how to walk, and it took me more than a year to fully recover."

Physical trauma was not the only obstacle Sergeant Hall faced. She said she struggled with feelings of guilt that she had lived while the others had not.

"It took me more than two years to come out of my shell," she said. "I couldn't drive or even be in a car without being scared to death.

She had a 3-month-old daughter at the time of the accident. Since Sergeant Hall had to be away from home for so long in the hospital, she said her daughter did not know her.

"When you have a child who you love so dearly who thinks of you as a stranger — it hurts," Sergeant Hall said.

Although Sergeant Hall and the other victims were the only people directly involved in the accident, they were not the only ones affected by the tragedy.

Families and friends of the victims, as well as the squadron and base community, were all affected, and more than 1,200 people attended their memorial service.

Eight years after the accident, sitting on Sergeant Hall's

desk is a photo taken the day of the crash of all the victims together. Next to it is a photo of the wreckage.

"That's how I get my story across," she said. "When Airmen come in my office and see this picture, it gives me a chance to tell my story.

"If you drink, don't drive," Sergeant Hall said. "Please hand over your keys to someone, call a cab or a friend, because drinking and driving is like playing Russian roulette with your life and the lives of others — here one minute — gone the next. I should know."



U.S. Air Force photo

**(From left) Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Jackson and wife, Hiroko, then-Staff Sgt. Theresa Hall, Staff Sgt. Kevin Sullivan, Tech. Sgt. Terry Jennings and Senior Airman Angela Fralick pose for a photo at a noncommissioned officer academy graduation ceremony July 11, 1997. Mrs. Jackson, Sergeant Sullivan, Sergeant Jennings and Airman Fralick died in a head-on collision with a drunk driver on their way home from the graduation.**

# Get money for good ideas

**Tech. Sgt. Nancy Burgess**  
14th Mission Support Squadron

How many times have you heard someone say, "Well, back at my old base I used to..." and before he or she could complete their statement, it was interrupted with a chorus of sighs? That person is usually the new person on the block trying to share an idea.

A good idea is a valuable asset, and the Air Force wants to know about your ideas and reward you for them. The key is knowing where to sell ideas, how to sell them and the potential rewards for doing so.

The Innovative Development through Employee Awareness Program allows everyone to contribute ideas and have them taken seriously. Your local manpower and organization office administers the program. This Web-based program allows for submission, evaluation and cash awards for usable ideas.

You can access the IDEA Program Data System from any Air Force desktop computer. Visit the IPDS Web site at <https://ipds.mont.disa.mil>. But before pitching your idea, you need to be aware of the three main pitfalls many submitters encounter.

Having worked closely with the IDEA program here, I've come across some ideas that aren't accepted because they are vague, incomplete or based on opinion.

First and foremost, don't be vague. When wording your submission, try to keep in mind that your idea needs to be evident to the reader who will be evaluating your idea.

Avoid another pitfall by gathering all the data needed. Ideas are often incomplete because of a person's lack of preparation. Do the "legwork." Don't rely on the evaluator of your ideas to do it for you. Be prepared to provide a detailed description of your idea, state a workable solution and incorporate expected benefits.

Lastly, don't confuse your opinion with what qualifies as





Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

Top: Staff Sgt. Roxanne Phillips, 14th Flying Training Wing Legal Office, and Senior Airman Sandra Labiche, 14th Operations Support Squadron, practice hands-on self aid and buddy care techniques. Right: Part of the Operation FAST curriculum included convoy training for Airmen. Participants learned defense tactics in a classroom setting, and were later able to practice what they learned during practical, hands-on exercises.



Kenn Brown

# Life in the FAST lane ...

**Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez**  
14th Flying Training Wing

About 40 people recently honed essential warrior skills during Fundamental Air Expeditionary Force Skill Training, known as Operation FAST, in an effort to better prepare for deployments to the field.

"The 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness Flight did much of the course planning and development based on instruction other bases had already developed and pre-existing lesson plans," said Lt. Col. Mike Martel, Operation FAST officer in charge. "But we also conducted an internal survey of all Columbus AFB personnel who had deployed within the last six months. We took their responses to determine what skills and information troops would likely need upon reporting to their [Area Of Responsibility]."

The first class to complete the training was comprised of 14th Flying Training Wing unit and group deployment managers only.

"We thought no better place than to start with [the deployment managers]," Colonel Martel said. "They should be our subject matter experts and best qualified to provide a professional critique. Besides, there's nothing like leadership by example. If they've accomplished the course, they can back brief the rest of their troops."

A second group of deployable personnel from throughout the base participated in Operation FAST a week later.

The two-day course included a combination of both classroom instruction and hands-on field training.

Maj. Beverly Sabourin of the 14th Medical Operations Squadron was the team leader of the cadre who created an enhanced self aid and buddy care training program, to include cardio pulmonary resuscitation and automatic electronic defibrillator instruction.

"We call it 'MacGyver Combat Medical Skills 101' based on the late eighties television show where a former Special Forces agent uses his wits and ordinary things from his environment to solve problems," Major Sabourin said. "Because the purpose of this class is to give refresher training to deploying personnel, our focus was to take their current knowledge of self aid and buddy care to the next level ... functioning in the field with what they have available."

Maj. Sabourin believes that FAST training will provide Airmen with a basic knowledge of self-aid and buddy care improvisation.

"Our goal is to get deployers to think outside the 'peace-time box' and search for accessible resources to help keep themselves or their buddies alive until medics arrive," she said.

Unique to Columbus AFB is the availability of Army expertise at nearby Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Miss., which is responsible for training Army personnel

slated for overseas deployments.

"They have a month-long course for what we try to teach in two days," Colonel Martel said. "The guest instructors from Camp Shelby, who teach an Operation FAST Army 101 and convoy operations class, help lend credibility and validity to our course. We also have an indigenous expertise to draw from here at Columbus AFB, as a number of Air Force FAST instructors just returned from overseas."

Master Sgt. Elvin Stewart, 14th Flying Training Wing Legal Office, said he enjoyed the course's convoy training the most.

"The individual movement techniques instruction was useful when we participated in convoy practical exercises," Sergeant Stewart said. "It gave us a feel for what conditions would be like when riding around in tactical vehicles. It's not easy getting in and out of the vehicles in a hurry like you would need to do in a real environment."

"I think the training was beneficial for all individuals on mobility because the operations that are conducted in the AOR now are different than before," Sergeant Stewart said. "Everyone who deploys might have to conduct augmentee duty with security forces or participate in convoy operations for the base."

Colonel Martel said convoy training is "much more than just getting a ride in a truck." "Combat vehicles have various formations for different situations, and we teach Airmen how to position themselves to protect either the trucks or their convoys," he said. "They not only learn about defense tactics in the classroom, but actually practice them."

Airmen also become qualified operators of a Humvee and five-ton truck during the course.

"We incorporated this training so if our troops are deployed and the situation arises, they have the confidence needed to operate those vehicles," Colonel Martel said.

Operation FAST instruction also included classes on force protection, Laws Of Armed Conflict, weapon familiarization, cultural awareness, religious education and chemical defense, a night vision capability demonstration, and an unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive device awareness course.

"The instruction we received was definitely more effective than any web-based training I've done before," said Airman 1st Class Darnell Strausheim, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron and Operation FAST graduate. "We actually got some hands-on training instead of just looking at a computer screen."

Although the frequency of future Operation FAST courses has yet to be determined, Colonel Martel said the next rotation of deploying Columbus AFB Airmen will stand ready to support their AEFs armed with more advanced knowledge and skills.

"Thanks to a wing-wide, coordinated effort, our troops will be better prepared for operation at future forward-deployed locations," Colonel Martel said.



Kenn Brown



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

Airmen practice low crawling during an Operation FAST field training exercise.



Left: The 14th Services Division distributed Meals Ready-To-Eat to Operation FAST participants like Tech. Sgt. Jerry Malone, 14th Operations Support Squadron, shown here preparing his lunchtime meal. The two-day Operation FAST course was designed to better prepare Columbus AFB troops by equipping them with advanced skills and knowledge before deploying to the field.



# Services provides variety of leisure time activities

**Reduced prices for lunch buffets:** The Columbus Club offers a different buffet Tuesday through Friday. Cost is now \$5.95 for club members and \$7.95 for nonmembers. Tuesday features Mexican cuisine, Wednesday is country-style cooking, Thursday has an Italian flair and Fridays offer a tri-continental selection of German, Asian and New England seafood. Call Ext. 2490.

**Mothers Day specials:** The bowling center offers a special rate of 50 cents a game for all mothers Sunday with complimentary soda, coffee or tea. Call Ext. 2426.

At Whispering Pines Golf course, mothers golf for half price Sunday. Call Ext. 7932.

**Mother’s Day buffet:** The Columbus Club offers this brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Reservations are encouraged. Cost is \$12.95 for members and \$15.95 for nonmembers, \$6.50 for ages 6 to 12 and free for children 5 and younger.

The menu is smoked quail, veal with marsala sauce, carved prime rib, stuffed shells, new roasted potatoes, julienne vegetables, broccoli and cheese casserole, fresh marinated vegetable medley, veggie tray, assorted cheese and cracker tray, fruit tray, smoked salmon canapes, garden salad with with assorted dressings, omelet and waffle station, bacon, scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, sausage gravy, buttermilk biscuits and assorted homemade desserts. Call Ext. 2490.

**Scrapbooking:** All levels of scrapbookers are invited to participate in a workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 14 at the 14th Services Division complex. Cost is \$10 per person. To register or for more information, call Lynn Bridges at 434-6935.

**Teen job skills seminar:** The youth center offers this seminar about the basics of lawn care at 6 p.m. Saturday. Call Ext. 2504.

**Crafts classes:** The arts and crafts center offers weekly classes for both adults and children. Upcoming adult classes include making a household wooden planter, mosaic flower pot and tulip frame. The youth classes feature powder puff magnets, a kaleidoscope and a travel tic-tac-toe game. Adults can make a mirrored, wall-mounted candle holder in a home decor class May 26. This 15-inch, square candle holder fits four votive candles. Stop by the arts and crafts center to see a display of the upcoming projects. Call Ext. 7836.

**Casino dinner trip:** The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to the Silver Star

Casino in Philadelphia, Miss., May 20. Cost is \$25 for club members, \$28 for nonmembers, and includes transportation, \$15 in coins and a free buffet dinner. Call Ext. 7861.

**White water rafting trip:** The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip June 4 and June 5. For club members, cost is \$105 for a half-river trip or \$135 for full-river trip. Cost also includes transportation, two nights lodging (double occupancy) and three meals. Nonmembers pay \$15 more per person. Call Ext. 7861.

**Rent the marquee:** The Services complex is renting one side of its marquee for \$5 per day. People can wish spouses a happy anniversary, congratulate graduating students or publicize upcoming fundraisers. Call the youth center at Ext. 2504.

**Summer vacations to Disney World, Universal Studios:** The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip to Orlando, Fla., June 7 through June 11. Cost is \$415 for one person, \$265 each for two people, \$215 each for three people and \$190 each for four people with the same lodging accommodations. Costs include four nights lodging, transportation and an Orlando shuttle service. Reduced price ticket packages are available at ITT. Call Ext. 7861.

**Quick shot bingo:** The bowling center offers quick shot bingo any time the bowling center is open. Cash prizes are awarded. Cards are \$1 each. Call Ext. 2426

**Services complex fees:** Effective Sunday, the 14th Services Division complex will be available for non-official functions for a nominal fee of \$35. This fee is to offset the cost of setting up and cleaning the facility after each use. The complex will still be available at no charge for official functions, such as commander’s calls, promotion ceremonies and official briefings.

Examples of non-official functions are birthday parties, wedding receptions and potluck luncheons. To reserve the 14th SVS complex for official and non-official functions, stop by the youth center to complete a reservation form. Call Ext. 2504.

**Bowling center snack bar items:** The bowling center snack bar features several new items, including a waffle ice cream cone for \$1.50, a caramel or strawberry churro for \$1, beer battered cheese sticks for \$2.25, chips with salsa for \$2.75 or chili cheese nachos for \$3. Stop by the snack bar and check out its new combo specials. To place an order to go, call Ext. 2426.



Athena Brimer

Joe Smith, 14th Services Division, test drives a tricycle for the upcoming wacky olympics Thursday at the Columbus Club.

## Columbus Club hosts first Wacky Olympics

**Pam Wickham**  
14th Services Division

A “wacky” family fun night begins at 5 p.m. Thursday at the Columbus Club.

Children and at least one parent can participate in the event’s Wacky Olympics for the chance to win a bicycle as the overall winner.

The games begin at 6:30 p.m. and include a tricycle obstacle course, egg relay race and ring toss.

The obstacle course and egg relay are both timed events, and the ring toss will be based on total number of rings.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded for each event. In addition, points will be awarded for each event to determine the overall winner.

“Our events are family-oriented so we are inviting the parents to compete in the tricycle obstacle course, the children to compete in

the ring toss, and both the parents and children to participate in the egg relay race,” said Brenda Freeman, Columbus Club manager.

The club will serve a buffet for adults and children from 5 to 8 p.m.

Cost for the adult buffet is \$6.95 for club members and \$9.95 for nonmembers, and includes baked chicken breast, slow roasted beef with natural gravy, roasted new potatoes, wild rice, vegetables and rolls.

Cost for a children’s buffet is \$3.95 for club member children ages 6 to 12 and \$5.95 for nonmember children. Ages 5 and younger eat free.

This buffet includes winners circle chicken nuggets, gold medal corn dogs, racing for the gold fries, torch tater tots, finish line macaroni and cheese, rootin’ tootin’ fruity gelatin and olympic pudding.

For more information, call Ext. 2490.

## Movies

**Today**  
“Guess Who”  
(PG-13, sex-related humor, 104 min.)  
Starring: Bernie Mac and Ashton Kutcher.

**Saturday**  
“Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous”  
(PG-13, sex-related humor, 115 min.)  
Starring: Sandra Bullock and Regina King.

All movies are shown at 7 p.m. at the base theater, unless otherwise noted. For more information, visit [www.cafb.services.com](http://www.cafb.services.com).

### Base Notes

#### CCAF graduation

All BLAZE TEAM members are invited to attend the annual Community College of the Air Force graduation at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Columbus Club. For questions or more information, call the education center at Ext. 2562.

#### Student spouse group

New and casual student spouses are invited to join the Columbus Officers’ Spouses’ Club Student Spouse Group volleyball event at 10 a.m. May 19 at Freedom Park. The group provides spouses the opportunity to build friendships and resources. To sign up or for more information, call Vanessa Hedlund at 352-1159.

#### Quarters non-availability

The upcoming University Olympics Aug. 7 through Aug. 25 will result in non-availability of quarters for official travel to Izmir, Turkey, and surrounding areas. It is highly recommended that travelers make lodging arrangements well in advance by calling the reservations assistance office at DSN 675-3366.

#### Commissioning opportunity

Enlisted Airman younger than 31 years old and with one to six years of service in the Air Force are eligible to apply for the Scholarships for Outstanding Airmen to ROTC program.

SOAR is a wing commander-endorsed program, and gives squadron and group commanders the opportunity to nominate Airmen they feel would make outstanding Air Force officers.

Candidates are selected at the major command level, and Air Education and Training Command has seven slots available for Fiscal Year 2005.

Applications should be reviewed by the education center staff no later than Sept. 15; individuals that require waivers must have their packages reviewed no later than July 15. For more information, call Larry Brooks at Ext. 2562 or visit [www.afoats.af.mil/AFROTC/EnlistedCommissioning/FY05s](http://www.afoats.af.mil/AFROTC/EnlistedCommissioning/FY05soar.htm)oar.htm.

#### Trash cans

Trash pick-up is on Mondays for residents of Capitol Housing and on Thursdays for Magnolia and State Village. Residents are reminded that trash or recycling receptacles left curb-side later than noon the following day will be ticketed by the housing office.

### Family Support Center

*(Editor’s note: All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call Ext. 2790.)*

#### Hug-A-Bear program

The family support center has partnered with the Mississippi State Troopers to sponsor the Hug-A-Bear program.

Now through May 23, BLAZE TEAM members are invited to drop off small, clean, used or new stuffed animals at the family support center.

The troopers will keep the toys in police cars to comfort children whose families are involved in accidents, traffic stops and domestic calls.

#### Local employment

A workshop about employment opportunities with local businesses, the 14th Services Division and government applications is from 1 to 2 p.m. every Wednesday. Resumes and other job applications will also be discussed.

#### Spouse welcome

A welcome reception for spouses new to Columbus AFB is from 10 to 11 a.m. every Wednesday at the Magnolia Inn Lobby. Spouses will receive gifts and information about the family support center.

#### Predatory lenders

A workshop about predatory loan agencies is at 11 a.m. Thursday.

#### Hearts Apart social

A social gathering for families of personnel deployed or remote for more than 30 days is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Information, refreshments and prizes are provided.

#### Teens on the move

A workshop for teenagers about what to expect at a new installation, school and community is at 6 p.m. May 27 at the youth center. Call Ext. 2504.

#### Free childcare

The Childcare for PCS program offers up to 20 hours of free childcare per child for active-duty Air Force people arriving at or departing from Columbus AFB. Certificates are available within 60 days of departure or arrival. For more information, call Sharon Nichols at Ext. 2790.

#### Air Force Aid Society

The AFAS offers 24-hour emergency assistance. Possible aid includes interest-free loans, grants, car repairs and emergency travel. Call the family support center for more information.

### Chapel Schedule

#### Protestant announcements

There will be no religious education during May, but all classes will resume in June.

Throughout June, there will be a one-room school house. All children enrolled in Sunday school will meet in the religious education wing at the chapel.

The protestant community will offer 100 days of combined worship services from May 29 to September 11.

For more information, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

#### Vacation Bible School

The chapel is currently holding registration for Columbus AFB’s Vacation Bible School program, themed “Jerusalem Market Place.” A registration booth will also be available from 10 a.m. to noon May 14 at the base exchange.

The program is for ages 4 through 12 and will run from 9 a.m. to noon June 6 through June 10 at the base chapel. A bus will pick up children in base housing and at the youth center.

Youth entering the seventh grade for the 2005-2006 school year can volunteer with approval. To register, volunteer or for more information, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

#### Catholic

Sunday:  
9:15 a.m. — Mass  
10:45 a.m. — CCD at Bldg. 1052\*  
5 p.m. — Confessions  
5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass

#### Protestant

Sunday:  
10:30 a.m. — Contemporary worship service at the community center  
10:45 a.m. — Combined worship service in the chapel sanctuary  
For information about other services, call the base chapel at Ext. 2500.

\*The chapel annex is currently being renovated. All religious education activities are temporarily located in Building 1052, the former 14th Communications Squadron Missions Systems flight facility on First Street.



**Market Street Festival:** This event runs today and Saturday in downtown Columbus. A variety of arts and crafts, music, food exhibits, vendors and children’s activities will be on site. For more information, call 328-6305.

**First Friday Nite Gospel Sing:** The McAdams Quartet sponsors the First Friday Nite Gospel Sing from 7 to 9:30 p.m. today at the Princess Theatre located on 5th Street South in downtown Columbus. The event features different local talent each month. Admission is \$6 per person. For more information, call 328-5016 or visit [www.1stfridaynitegospelsing.homestead.com](http://www.1stfridaynitegospelsing.homestead.com).

**Anne of Green Gables:** The Frank P. Phillips YMCA drama group will present “Anne of Green Gables” at 7 p.m. today and Saturday at the Heritage Academy High School Student Activity Building. For ticket information, call the YMCA at 328-7696.

**Church yard sale:** Immanuel Baptist Church will sponsor a yard sale beginning at 6 a.m. Saturday. All proceeds will benefit a mission trip to Mexico. For more information, call Leslie Wyatt at 434-2622.

**The Columbus Girl choir:** This newly organized group, under the direction of Cherry Dunn and accompanied by Jennifer Strickland, will present its first spring concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Poindexter Auditorium at Mississippi University for Women. The concert is free and open to the public.

**Noon Tunes:** Local musical artists will perform from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday at the Trotter Convention Center Courtyard. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 328-6305.

**Columbus Great American Clean-Up:** Volunteers are needed to participate in the Columbus Great American Clean-Up May 14. People will meet in the

parking lot of the Little Kitchen restaurant at 8 a.m. May 14 to help clean up Highway 373. All volunteers will receive gloves, garbage bags and a safety vest. To sign up, call Deborah Hester at 329-5346.

**Parent/Student institute:** The Parent/Student Institute, hosted by the Mississippi University for Women’s Roger F. Wicker Center for Creative Learning, is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 21 in Room 103 and Room 104 of Parkinson Hall.

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade will participate in enrichment activities. Barbara Coloroso, internationally recognized and critically acclaimed author, will speak to the parents in Nissan Auditorium Parkinson Hall. Free pizza will be available for students and a free lunch buffet will be available for parents. Reservations are required by May 17. For more information, call 241-6101.

For more event listings, visit [www.columbus-ms.org](http://www.columbus-ms.org).

BARGAIN LINE

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week’s issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week’s issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one)    Home    Transportation    Miscellaneous    Yard sales    Pets

Print advertisement \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Duty Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_  
(in case we need more information)

Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:

Are you happy with the Silver Wings?    Yes ☐    No ☐

What would you like to see more of in the newspaper?    News ☐    Sports ☐    Photos ☐    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Precious metals

The Department of Defense needs your assistance in reducing operating costs. One way to help reduce costs is to check all expendable items for precious metals before throwing them away. For more information, contact your unit Precious Metals Recovery Program monitor or call wing PMRP managers David Gaddy at Ext. 7167 or Don Howard at Ext. 7170.

SPORTS

AF wrestlers take 2 medals at nationals

Staff Sgt. Cia Newman  
Air Warfare Center

**NELLIS AFB, Nev.** — Air Force wrestlers left the U.S. National Wrestling Championships on April 30 in nearby Las Vegas with a silver and bronze medal and qualified five wrestlers to attend the World Team Trials.

“We came into this competition understanding we are rebuilding our team,” said Richard Estrella, Air Force wrestling coach. “So we are not disappointed in leaving with two medals and three top-seven placers because the effort put forth by everyone on the team was strong.”

Greco-Roman wrestler Jacob Hey took the silver in the 132-pound division, and Philip Johnston won a bronze in the 211.5-pound division. The team also walked away from the two-day competition with the second place award for the Greco-Roman National Team Championship title.

“For the past three years, we have received a team championship award,” Mr. Estrella said.

In 2002 they placed national team runner-up, and in 2004, they were National Team Champions.

“This year’s award means a lot since we are developing a younger team,” he said.

Winning the silver medal, Hey defeated Duaine Martin, U.S. Army Wrestling Team, in the semifinals 0-1, 1-0, 1-0, but was not able to duplicate his win in the final match against New York Athletic Club wrestler Joe Warren.

Warren entered the second period of the final up 2-0 against Hey. Hey attempted to gain 3 points by performing a throw while having Warren in a front headlock, but Warren took advantage of Hey’s position, pushing him out of bounds and gained another 3 points to end the second and final round 5-0.

Emotions were high for the Air Force wrestler, who said Warren was his most difficult match of the competition.

“Warren is one of the best wrestlers, and he’s beat me at least three other times,” Hey said. “But I’ve also beat him in the past, so I went into this knowing I could win. I am proud of getting second place, but my



Master Sgt. Robert Valencia

**Lorenzo Peterson (right), a 211.2-pound division Greco-Roman wrestler, grapples with his opponent, R.C. Johnson of the New York Athletic Club, during a match at the 2005 U.S. Nationals Wrestling tournament held at Las Vegas April 29. The Air Force team won first runner-up in the team standings for the tournament.**

focus has now shifted to the World Team Trials.”

Hey and Johnston were also the 2005 Armed Forces Championship winners. Johnston, moving up four positions from

2004, took home the bronze medal after beating J.D. Bergman, of the Ohio International Wrestling Corporation, by a technical call 5-0, 8-0 for the third-place finish.

“I have no regrets,” Johnston said. “My goal was to be No. 1, but ultimately it’s to wrestle as well as I can, and I did that during this competition.”

The World Teams Trials competition is scheduled for June 14

through 20 in Ames, Iowa. Mr. Estrella was also selected as one of the coaches to lead Team USA to the World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, later this year.

Also earning berths in the World Team Trials was Anthony Brooker, who finished fourth in the 121-pound division; Justin

Millard, who finished seventh at 185-pounds; and Laura McDonald, a 147-pound women’s freestyle wrestler who also placed in the Open Nationals and earned a berth to the trials.

Another significant accomplishment for the team was having two female Airmen compete.

“This was the first time we’ve had female wrestlers represent the Air Force” Mr. Estrella said. “They are the ‘pioneers leading the way.’ Having the women training alongside the men during the entire camp helped make us a better team.”

“It’s an awesome feeling to be one of the first to lay the foundation for other female Airmen wrestlers,” said Bethany Murphy, a 130-pound division women’s freestyle wrestler. “Although my goal was to leave with a medal, I already have a sense of accomplishment just getting this far and being chosen to represent the Air Force.”

“The realization is that our wrestlers are Airmen first and are still held responsible to perform their regular duties and prepare for their competitions. But if I could spend just a little more time with them and we get a little more experience, it would be scary to see how good we could possibly be,” Mr. Estrella said.



# ORI Prep

## BLAZE TEAM sharpens exercise response skills



Photos by Kenn Brown  
Jeff Rhoads, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, tends to 2nd Lt. Erick Handegard, a "victim" during the base exercise Tuesday.



Staff Sgt. Brandon Stagner and Tech. Sgt. Preston Holt, 14th Security Forces Squadron, review cordon marking procedures. Tuesday's exercise simulated a mid-air collision involving a C-17 aircraft and T-38 jet.



Top: Disaster control group members review checklists after receiving an initial brief by the on-scene and 14th Mission Support Group commander, Col. Keith Keck.  
Right: Airman 1st Class Arlen Martin, 14th Medical Operations Squadron, prepares to enter a simulated crash site.

